

REMARKS

This application is on appeal. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, Applicant herein submits a Request for Continued Examination prior to a decision on the appeal. Accordingly, this submission is a request to withdraw the appeal and to reopen prosecution of the application before the Examiner. Under separate filing, Applicant has notified the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences of this Request for Continued Examination—a copy of which is attached.

By this reply, Claims 31-35, 37, 40-44, 46, 49-53, and 58-62 have been amended, Claims 1-30, 38, 39, 47, 48, 56, 57, and 65 have been canceled, and Claims 66-169 have been added. As such, Claims 31-37, 40-46, 49-55, 58-64, and 66-169 are pending in this application.

Reconsideration of this application and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the professional courtesies extended in the telephone interview with Applicant and Applicant's counsel on July 24, 2007 and the several follow-up communications.

In accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant has amended and canceled—respectively, as identified herein—Claims 1-65. That is, each of the indicated patentable aspects of dependent Claims 31-35, 40-44, 49-53, and 58-62 have been rewritten in independent form with their respective independent Claims 1, 9, 15, and 23.

As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 31-37, 40-46, 49-55, and 58-64 are in condition for allowance.

New Claims

Additional Claims 66-169 each ultimately depend on allowable independent Claims 31, 33, 35, 44, 49, 51, 53, 58, 60, and 62, respectively. As such, Applicant submits that for at least the same reasons that amended independent Claims 31, 33, 35, 44, 49, 51, 53, 58, 60, and 62 are patentably distinct over the cited prior art, new claims 66-169 are also patentable.

CONCLUSION

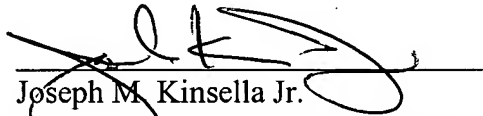
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that all pending claims be passed to issue.

In addition, also enclosed is a check in the amount of \$4850.00 (126 additional claims at \$25.00 each and 17 additional independent claims at \$100.00 each) to cover the fee for the additional claims. Should any additional fees be required with this communication, Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to deduct such fees from its Deposit Account No. 50-0545.

Should anything further be required, a telephone call to Applicant's counsel at (312) 226-1818 is respectfully solicited.

Dated: January 29, 2008

Respectfully Submitted,


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One of the Attorneys for the Applicant

